

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Grove Mount  
other names/site number DHL 79-5

## 2. Location

street & number VA Route 635 N/A not for publication  
city, town Warsaw ☒ vicinity  
state Virginia code VA county Richmond code 59 zip code 22572

## 3. Classification

| Ownership of Property                       | Category of Property                            | Number of Resources within Property |                     |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | Contributing                        | Noncontributing     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local       | <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <u>4</u>                            | <u>6</u> buildings  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State       | <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <u>1</u>                            | <u>0</u> sites      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal     | <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <u>0</u>                            | <u>0</u> structures |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <u>0</u>                            | <u>0</u> objects    |
|   |   | <u>5</u>                            | <u>6</u> Total      |

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/ANumber of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register 0

## 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the  
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

9 Nov 70  
Director, Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National  
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC

single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE

processing

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC

single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE

processing

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Georgian

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof asbestos shingles

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Grove Mount is a farm in Richmond County, near Warsaw, Virginia, currently comprising slightly more than six hundred acres. This nomination includes 101.6 acres of that total. The historic buildings at Grove Mount include the large, five-bay, hip-roofed, late-Georgian frame dwelling house with later additions, the late-eighteenth century dairy, a log corn crib probably from the nineteenth century and a late-nineteenth or twentieth century frame outbuilding. There is also the archeological site of the former kitchen and possibly other outbuildings adjacent to the old kitchen. The dwelling house was built by Robert Mitchell and his wife, Priscilla Carter Mitchell, sometime after their marriage in 1782. Priscilla Carter Mitchell was the daughter of Robert Carter III, known as "Councillor" Carter, of Nomini Hall in Westmoreland County. The style and construction of the dwelling house and the dairy suggest a date about 1785-1800. The dwelling house has a kitchen wing added in 1952 and an orangery added in 1989. On the south side of the dwelling house is a sweeping view of the Rappahannock River valley and two levels of grassed terraces. Grove Mount is one of a group of four eighteenth century plantation houses in near proximity in Richmond County connected by close family ties and some architectural and landscape similarities. This group also includes Sabine Hall (ca. 1735), Mount Airy (1748-58) and Menokin (ca. 1770).

## 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c1785-c1900

Significant Dates

1808

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

not known

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Grove Mount was built about 1780-1800 by Robert Mitchell and his wife, Priscilla Carter Mitchell, on a high ridge overlooking the Rappahannock River valley in Richmond County, Virginia, near the town of Warsaw. It is significant in American architecture as a fine example of a late-Georgian dwelling house and dairy of a large plantation. Robert Mitchell married Priscilla Carter in 1782 and died in 1808. He was a planter, a gentleman justice and sheriff of Richmond County. His wife was the daughter of Robert "Councillor" Carter of Nomini Hall in Westmoreland County, and sister of George Carter, builder of Oatlands in Loudoun County. The large two-story, five-bay, hip-roofed frame, dwelling house, and the flanking one-story, one-bay, gable roof frame dairy are important elements of a deliberately formal landscape laid out on a strong north-south axis and a strong east-west axis. The central passage of the house, the north entrance drive, the grass terraces on the south (river) side of the house form the principal elements of the north-south axis. The line of the south (principal) elevation of the dwelling house forms the line of the east-west axis. The south elevation of the dairy and the traces of the south wall of the old kitchen and other out-buildings conform exactly to this line. The simple braced-frame construction of the dwelling house and the dairy are fine examples of late-eighteenth century timber construction. The formal design of the plan and elevations of the two buildings demonstrate the strong tradition of Georgian architecture that survived in Virginia well after the Revolution, and yet at the same time Grove Mount contains elements of Federal design more characteristic of its period, principally in the design of the parlor.

☒ See continuation sheet

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Belfield, Sydnor and John Belfield. "Inventory and Appraisalment of the Personal Estate of Robert Mitchell decd." December, 1808. Richmond County Court House, Account Book #1, entered into record March 9, 1821.

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Research Library, Williamsburg, Virginia, Microfilm of Carter Family Papers.

Fithian, Philip Vickers. Journal and Letters 1773-1774. Edited by Hunter D. Parish. Charlottesville, Virginia: University Press of Virginia, 1957.

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

☒ See continuation sheet

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☒ University
- ☒ Other

### Specify repository:

Archives of Mr. and Mrs. Martin King,  
Grove Mount, Warsaw, Virginia

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 101.6 acres in the National Register nomination.

### UTM References

A 18 338820 4209170  
Zone Easting Northing

C 18 339370 4207660

B 18 339470 4207700  
Zone Easting Northing

D 18 339110 4208180

☒ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of Grove Mount is shown on Parcel A on the accompanying map entitled "Survey of Property for Dabney Overton, Part of 'Grove Mount,' 1968."

☐ See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification** The 101.6 acres included in the Grove Mount National Register nomination is only a portion of the more than six hundred acres currently included in the estate. These 101.6 acres, however, include all the historic structures and principal archaeological sites associated with Robert and Priscilla Mitchell, except for the "burnt house" site and graveyard which is in separate ownership. The 101.6 acres also includes the major axial landscape features associated with the historic buildings.

☐ See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title W. Brown Morton III, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization N/A date November 10, 1989

street & number 1615 Franklin St. telephone (703) 373-1594

city or town Fredericksburg state VA zip code 22401

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The four-bay north elevation of the main portion of the house is 33'-9" wide. The north entrance door leads into the central passage. The door is original to the house. It has six panels on the exterior face of the door. The interior face is covered with diagonal boards in a diamond pattern. There is no transom. A late-nineteenth century enclosed porch was removed in 1952. To protect the north entrance door, a hipped hood was constructed in 1989 similar to the one on the south elevation. In 1989, brick steps constructed in the 1970s were removed to permit the replacement of the rotted sill at the north doorway. The present brick steps were constructed at that time. There are two first floor window bays west of the north entrance door and one window bay east of it, all with nine-over-nine pane double-hung sash. At the second floor level are three window bays with six-over-nine pane sash, one slightly off center above the north entrance door and two directly above the parlor windows on the first floor.

The west elevation of the projecting ell has no bays and is twelve feet deep. The two-bay north elevation of the ell is eighteen feet wide. At both the first and second floor levels are two, four-over-four pane double-hung sash, one on either side of the interior end chimney. These bays light the closets on either side of chimney on both floors. The window in the west dining room closet was restored in 1952, having been enlarged into a door prior to that time.

The three-bay east elevation of the old house is thirty-eight feet deep. The first floor bays have nine-over-nine pane, double-hung sash, the second floor bays have six-over-nine pane sash.

The one-and-a-half story, three-bay, frame kitchen addition was constructed in 1952 at the northeast corner of the main house, facing south. The kitchen addition has a stone foundation and a stone and brick standing exterior end chimney, and is connected to the main house by a one-bay, one-and-a-half story hyphen also constructed in 1952. This hyphen joins the dining room through a doorway cut into the east wall of the east dining room closet. On the south elevation of the hyphen, the first floor bay was changed from a door to a window in 1989.

The frame and brick, one-story, five-bay orangery was constructed in 1989 at the northeast corner of the kitchen addition and connected to it by a one-story one-bay hyphen. The orangery also faces south. Both the kitchen addition and the orangery are clearly subordinate to the earlier dwelling house.

Grove Mount is a simple braced-frame structure of oak covered with beaded weatherboards. The weather boards are exposed about 5" and are fixed to the frame with hand-forged, rose-headed nails. There is brick nogging between the first and second floor only. The sills at Grove Mount are 8 1/4" x 10"; the plates 8" x 4". The corner posts are L-shaped and measure 9" x 9 3/4".

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Corner braces are 5 1/2" x 4 1/2"; intermediate posts 8 1/2" x 4 1/2" and studs 2 1/2" x 4 1/2". The first floor summer beams and girders are approximately 9" x 10"; joists are 4" x 8 1/2", approximately 22" on center. Second floor joists are 4" x 8", 22" on center. The attic beams vary from 3 1/4" x 8 1/2" to 6 1/2" x 10"; attic joists are 4" x 7". The hipped roof is framed with 4" x 4" rafters resting on 1" x 7 1/2" false plates. Attic joists and rafters are spaced approximately 22" to 24" on center. The hipped roof is sheathed with 1" x 5" tongue-and-groove boards. The flooring on the first and second floors is pine and the 1" thick floor boards vary from 5" to 6" wide. The floor boards are joined by a 1" wide spline.

The raised basement of the main house has 13" brick walls at grade. There are three basement rooms. The west room occupies the entire space under the parlor and central passage. There is a covered entrance way to the exterior on the west wall of the west room. The southeast room is beneath the first floor chamber and the northeast room is beneath the dining room. The basement rooms have poured concrete floors dating from 1952. The walls are brick and the first floor joists are exposed. All three rooms have arched brick fireplace supports beneath the fireplaces in the first floor rooms above. The basement windows have three-pane horizontal wood sash hinged at the top and set in massive wooden frames. Set in the basement window frames, outside the window sash, are vertical wooden security bars. A single-run, closed-string, wooden stair with treads and open risers connects the west room with the central passage on the first floor. The doorways between the west room and the northeast room and the southeast room have heavy wooden frames and early vertical beaded plank doors with surface-mounted H-L iron hinges.

The first floor of Grove Mount has a north-south central passage, with the parlor west of the passage and the first floor chamber and dining room east of the passage. The floors are pine throughout. The original plaster ceilings were replaced with drywall in most rooms in 1952. Most of the walls retain a significant amount of their original plaster.

The central passage is 24'-10 1/2" deep, 12'-9 1/2" wide and has 9'-9" ceilings. The south entrance doorway is on the center line of the formal south elevation, however, the central passage is not, itself, centered on the south entrance door, but extends further east of the south entrance than west. The central passage has a simple 5" wood baseboard, 4 1/2" molded, four-piece, wood chair rail and a 2 7/8" molded, wood cornice. The walls above and below the chair rail are plaster. The cornice was installed in 1989 and is a reproduction in wood of the original plaster cornice, complete fragments of which survived the removal of the plaster cornice in 1952.

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On the west wall of the central passage is an open-string stair with simple brackets leading to the second floor. The stair begins in the south end of the passage just north of the parlor doorway. It is an open-well, two-flight stair. It rises in a single flight of thirteen risers to a square landing in the northwest corner of the passage and then rises in a shorter second flight of five risers above the north entrance door to the second floor hall. The stair is 3'-8" wide and has twelve-inch treads and seven inch risers. The spandrel of the first flight of the stair is enclosed with raised wood panels. The stair has narrow square fluted newels with molded caps. The wood handrail is molded and ramps up in a curve at the landing and at the second floor. There are five rectangular balusters to each tread. Each baluster is 3/4" wide on a side and set at a 45-degree angle to the string. The design of the newels, handrail and balusters at Grove Mount is very similar, although not identical, to the design and execution of the handrail and balusters of the main stair at nearby Menokin.

The three-panel double south entrance doors were reconstructed in 1989 to replace a single door installed in 1952. Physical and documentary research, including a 1938 photograph, revealed traces of the earlier double doors and the hinge marks for the original 12" H-L iron hinges still visible in the 5 1/2" wide" architrave. The new doors carry profiles copied from the exterior of the north entrance door which is original to the house. The doors to the parlor, chamber and dining room, and the door to the basement, under the stair, all have six raised panels. The walnut door to the parlor has six raised panels on both sides of the door and a beveled edge at head and sides. There is one window in the central passage on the north wall, east of the north entrance door.

The parlor at Grove Mount is located west of the central passage and occupies the full depth of the house. The parlor is 24'-10 1/2" deep and 16'-1" wide from the passage partition to the face of the chimney breast. It is 19'-11 1/2" wide from the passage partition to west wall of the alcoves flanking the chimney breast. The parlor has a simple baseboard, a chair rail at window sill height and a molded wood cornice with a carved ribbon motif in lieu of dentils. The walls above and below the chair rail are plaster. On either side of the chimney breast are two alcoves separated from the rest of the parlor by semi-elliptical arches. The south alcove has a single closed cupboard with shelves, above the chair rail on the south wall. The north alcove has an identical cupboard on the north wall. In both alcoves, off center with the arches are single four-over-four pane double-hung windows.

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The backband delineating the architrave is set symmetrically with the window opening on either side, but it is mounted on a board wider than a normal architrave. The unsymmetrical placement and design of the alcove windows in relationship to the alcove arches have given rise to speculation that the alcoves were originally enclosed closets, such as are found in the dining room, and that the arches were a later feature. However, recent paint layer research does not support this theory. The chimney breast carries a neo-Georgian mantel and overmantel installed in 1952, allegedly following marks and traces of the original. The bold profiles of these neo-Georgian moldings are not in scale or character with the original Federal woodwork in place everywhere else in the room. On the both the north and south walls are two symmetrically-placed windows.

Directly opposite the parlor door, on the east side of the central passage, in the southeast corner of the first floor is the room known as the chamber. This room and the dining room directly north of it have a distinctly different character than the central passage and parlor. Unlike the parlor, which has restrained Federal woodwork, the chamber and dining room have decidedly Georgian woodwork. The chamber is 17'-0" wide and 17'-6" deep. There are two windows on the south wall and one window on the east wall. Also on the east wall is the fireplace. The chimney breast is located north of the east window and is not centered in the room. A narrow cupboard separates the chimney breast from the north wall. The north wall has no doorway. The west wall has a single doorway leading to the central passage. The chamber has a bold, projecting two-piece baseboard. The lower piece is a 1 5/8" x 5 3/16" block set 3/8" forward of the studs. Crowning it is a 1" x 3" molding that projects 2" from the wall. The baseboard returns on itself when it meets the door jamb. Above the baseboard is a wood dado made up of three horizontal boards 1" thick, joined together by tapered and beveled wood splines in a sliding dovetail joint on the reverse. The lower board measures 2 7/8", the middle board 11 3/8" and the upper board 14". Above the dado is a 2 1/4" molded, wood chair rail at window sill height. Above the chair rail the walls are plaster. At the ceiling is a deep molded wood cornice.

The mantel in the chamber is a simple back band in a dog ear motif supporting a frieze board and a projecting molded mantel shelf. There are faint outlines of dentils beneath the mantel shelf moldings. The chamber mantel is similar in design to the office mantel at Menokin.

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North of the chamber is the dining room. It is entered from the north end of the east wall of the central passage. The dining room is 17'-0" wide and 15'-3 1/2" deep. This room and the two closets on either side of the interior end chimney on the north wall form the L of Grove Mount's plan. As is the case in the chamber, the character of the dining room is distinctly Georgian. It has baseboard, horizontal board dado, chair rail and cornice closely similar to that in the chamber. There are two windows on the east wall. The north wall is dominated by the fully-paneled, centrally-placed, seven-foot-wide chimney breast.

On either side of the chimney breast is a doorway with a six-panel door, leading to small east and west closets. In each closet is a four-over-four pane double-hung sash window. A door in the east wall of the east closet was installed in 1952 to provide access to the 1952 kitchen addition. As is the case in many of the doorways at Grove Mount, the doors were rehung in 1952 with the hinges on the opposite side of the door from their original location.

The panelled chimney breast in the dining room is one of the most interesting features in the house. The entire surface of the 7'-0" wide chimney breast is panelled, except for the 48" high and 62 3/4" wide opening in the wood panelling for the fireplace opening and plaster surround. The 32" high and 35 3/4" wide fireplace opening was constructed in 1952 and is narrower than the original fireplace opening. It was narrowed to permit the construction of a flue for the furnace which was located in the basement beneath the dining room from 1952 to 1989. The prominent baseboard and chair rail return over the face of the chimney breast panelling, on either side of the fireplace opening. Above the mantel shelf is a large single rectangular raised panel. The cornice runs in front of the panelling the full width of the chimney breast. In 1989, when the restoration of the dining room was undertaken, it was revealed that the existing wide mantel shelf and the moldings supporting it were not in their original location. When the shelf and molding was removed for examination, it became clear that the mantel shelf was a later addition and that the moldings supporting it were, in fact, the original narrow mantel shelf that had been moved from its original and higher location. Examination of the paint layers and ghost marks clearly showed the original location of the original mantel shelf. It was returned to this original location. Study also revealed the ghost of a 2 7/8" wide molding that ran beneath the mantel shelf and then turned down on either side of the fireplace opening to meet the chair rail. A similar molding on the chimney breast in the north east chamber of the second floor, directly above the dining room was copied and the missing molding restored.

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When the later mantel shelf was removed it revealed pencil marks of designs for carved decoration on the chimney breast that were never executed. The traces showed a horizontal row of circles approximately  $2 \frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter, approximately  $2 \frac{1}{2}$ " apart, with smaller circles drawn within the larger circle. Each of these smaller circles are  $\frac{1}{3}$  the diameter of the larger circle. One of the smaller circles is on center with the larger circle. The others are arranged around the small center circle and tangential to it. This row of circles is beneath the mantel shelf in its original location and above the restored molding. A horizontal motif of carved circles exists beneath the mantel shelf of the dining room mantel at Menokin, although in a much more elaborate and fully executed form. These traces were fully recorded by photography before the chimney breast at Grove Mount was repainted.

The second floor of Grove Mount is arranged around the central stair hall. The stair hall is nearly square, measuring 15'-9" wide on the central north-south axis of the house and 15'-4  $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep. The ceiling height is 7'-7  $\frac{1}{2}$ ". The hall is flush with the exterior north wall of the house. Originally there was a single room on the south side of the hall directly above the south entrance door. This room was the same width as the second floor stair hall. In 1952 and again in 1989 this space was rehabilitated for two bathrooms and closets. The stair hall is wider than the central passage beneath it. A modern, pull-down ladder in the hall outside the doorway to the southwest bedroom provides access to the attic.

The extra width of the second floor stair hall is on the west side so that the northwest bedroom and southwest bedroom above the parlor are narrower in width than the parlor beneath them. These two bedrooms each have corner fireplaces sharing the parlor chimney. These rooms have a simple baseboard and chair rail and simple mantel shelves above a frieze board and back band. The northwest bedroom has a closet added in 1952.

The southeast bedroom is presently the master bedroom. It is directly above the first floor chamber and is the same size and configuration. However, in this room there is plaster between the baseboard and the chair rail except for simple wooden board panels beneath each window. These panels are wider than the windows by a few inches and were clearly intended to contrast with the plaster as they were originally painted to match the other wood trim in the room, not the plaster.

The northeast bedroom on the second floor was referred to as the blue room in an inventory of the contents of Grove Mount made at the death of the builder, Robert Mitchell. Indeed, current paint research revealed the original trim color in this room to be a bright sky blue. This room is directly above the dining room and has the same configuration, including two closets on either side of the chimney breast on the north wall. These closets each have a four-over-four pane double-hung window.

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The access to the half-story above the 1952 kitchen addition is gained through a doorway cut in the east wall of the northeast closet.

The northeast bedroom has the same board panels beneath the two east window bays that are found in the southeast bedroom. The chimney breast in the northeast bedroom is panelled up to the high narrow mantel shelf and then is plastered up to the wood cornice. Above the fireplace opening and below the mantel shelf are three raised panels.

The attic at Grove Mount is one large L-shaped unbroken space. It has modern wood flooring, exposed rafters, and is used for storage.

Some of the hardware at Grove Mount appears to be original to the house, however much of the hardware was replaced at later periods. In 1952 period hardware taken from other buildings was installed in several places. The door locks at Grove Mount, inventoried in 1989, reflect this mixture.

## FIRST FLOOR

1. Room: Central Passage
  - a. Door: South Entrance
  - b. Lock: Brass Rim Lock - Left Hand
  - c. Size: 9" x 5 1/4 "
  - d. Keeper: Brass
  - e. Knobs: Brass
  - f. Age: 18th c.
  - g. Condition: Repair
2. Room: Central Passage
  - a. Door: North Entrance
  - b. Lock: Brass Rim Lock - Left Hand
  - c. Size: 9" x 5 1/8"
  - d. Keeper: Brass
  - e. Knobs: Brass
  - f. Age: 18th c.
  - g. Condition: Repair
3. Room: Central Passage
  - a. Door: Cellar
  - b. Lock: Cast Iron Rim Lock - Right Hand
  - c. Size: 3 3/8" x 2 3/8"
  - d. Keeper: Cast Iron - Does not match lock
  - e. Knobs: White China
  - f. Age: late-19th c.
  - g. Condition: o.k.

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4. Room: Parlor
- a. Door: Central Passage
  - b. Lock: Brass Rim Lock - Right Hand
  - c. Size: 6 13/16" x 3 7/8"
  - d. Keeper: Brass
  - e. Knobs: Brass
  - f. Age: 18th c.
  - g. Condition: Repair
5. Room: Chamber/Library
- a. Door: Central Passage
  - b. Lock: Cast Iron Rim Lock - Left Hand
  - c. Size: 6 1/8" x 3 7/8"
  - d. Keeper: Cast Iron
  - e. Knobs: Brass
  - f. Age: late 19th c.
  - g. Condition: o. k.
  - h. Marks: B & B MFG CO  
PAT MAX . 291866
6. Room: Dining Room
- a. Door: Central Passage
  - b. Lock: Cast Iron Rim Lock - Right Hand
  - c. Size: 6 1/8" x 3 7/8"
  - d. Keeper: Sheet Iron
  - e. Knobs: Brass
  - f. Age: 19th c.
  - g. Condition: o. k.
  - h. Marks: B & B MFG CO  
PAT MAX . 291866
  - i. Ghost: 4" x 6"
7. Room: Dining Room
- a. Door: West Closet
  - b. Lock: Surface Mounted Iron Latch
  - c. Size: 5 3/4" x 3 1/2 "
  - d. Keeper: Iron
  - e. Knobs: Brass
  - f. Age: 18th c. or good quality reproduction
  - g. Condition: Repair - adjust hasp
  - h. Comment: Not in original location
  - i. Ghost ? x 4"

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8. Room: Dining Room
- a. Door: East Closet
  - b. Lock: Surface Mounted Iron Latch
  - c. Size: 5 3/4" x 3 1/2 "
  - d. Keeper: Iron
  - e. Knobs: Brass
  - f. Age: 18th c. or good quality reproduction
  - g. Condition: Repair - adjust hasp
  - h. Comment: Not in original location
  - i. Ghost: 5" x 3 3/4"
9. Room: Stair Hall
- a. Door: Linen Closet
  - b. Lock: Mortise Lock - Left Hand
  - c. Knobs: Brass
  - d. Age: modern
  - e. Condition: O. K., door repaired
  - f. Ghost: right hand side, 5 1/4" x 3 3/4"
10. Room: North West Bedroom
- a. Door: Stair Hall
  - b. Lock: Cast Iron Rim Lock - Left Hand, upside down
  - c. Size: 3 3/8" x 4 3/8"
  - d. Keeper: missing
  - e. Knobs: Brass
  - f. Age: late 19th c.
  - g. Condition: install keeper
11. Room: Northwest Bedroom
- a. Door: Closet
  - b. Lock: Mortise
  - c. Knobs: Brass
  - d. Age: modern
  - e. Condition: o. k.
  - f. Ghost: 6 7/8" x 4"

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12. Room: Southwest Bedroom  
a. Door: Stair Hall  
b. Lock: Cast Iron - Left Hand, upside down  
c. Size: 3 1/4" x 4 1/8"  
d. Keeper: Cast Iron  
e. Knobs: Brass  
f. Age: late 19th c.  
g. Condition: o.k.  
h. Marks: crescent mark, NORWALK L. Co.
13. Room: Southwest Bedroom  
a. Door: Closet  
b. Lock: Mortise  
c. Knobs: Brass  
d. Age: Modern  
e. Condition: o.k.
14. Room: Southeast (Master) Bedroom  
a. Door: Stair Hall  
b. Lock: Cast Iron - lock upside down, hung left, lock actually right.  
c. Size: 3 1/4" x 5"  
d. Keeper: Brass, 1" x 3 3/4", from earlier lock set  
e. Knobs: Brass  
f. Age: lock late 19th c.; keeper late 18th c.?  
g. Condition: Lock upside down
15. Room: Southeast (Master) Bedroom  
a. Door: Bathroom, not hung at time of survey  
b. Lock  
c. Size:  
d. Keeper:  
e. Knobs:  
f. Age:  
g. Condition:

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16. Room: Northeast (Blue) Room  
a. Door: Stair Hall  
b. Lock: Cast Iron Rim Lock - Left Hand, hung upside down  
c. Size: 4 1/2" x 3 1/2 "  
d. Keeper: missing  
e. Knobs: Brass  
f. Age: late 19th c.  
g. Condition: install keeper
17. Room: Northeast (Blue) Room  
a. Door: West Closet  
b. Lock: Cast Iron Rim Lock - upside down, hung right, really left  
c. Size: 4 1/2" x 3 1/2 "  
d. Keeper: Cast iron  
e. Knobs: Brass  
f. Age: late 19th-early 20th c.  
g. Condition: o.k.
18. Room: Northeast (Blue) Room  
a. Door: East Closet  
b. Lock: Cast Iron - Right hand  
c. Size: 3 1/4" x 4"  
d. Keeper: missing  
e. Knobs: Brass  
f. Age: late 19th- early 20th c.  
g. Condition: repair  
h. Ghost: 5" x 3 1/4 "

The dairy at Grove Mount is the only surviving eighteenth century outbuilding. It is presently used as a smokehouse. It is located 44 feet due west of the main house. The south elevation of the dairy is precisely in line with the south elevation of the main house. The dairy is rectangular, 12'-2" wide and 10'-2" deep. It is one story and of simple braced frame construction with brick nogging covered with weather boards. It is constructed on a brick foundation. The dairy has a gable roof with an east-west ridge. The roof is covered with round-butt cypress shingles installed in 1989 at the time that the same shingles were installed on the entrance hoods of the main house. The gable roof projects beyond the walls of the dairy, particularly at the eaves on the south and north elevations. Just below the north and south projecting eaves, the soffit of which were originally covered with lath and plaster, are three bays of rectangular, louvered openings with interior solid shutters for controlling ventilation.

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There is only one doorway into the dairy, located in the center of the north elevation. The interior of the dairy is one space. The floor level is approximately two feet below grade and is covered in square paving brick. There is presently a fire box in the center of the floor. The walls are plastered over the simple braced-frame and brick nogging. Wide wooden shelves are attached to the wall. The ceiling is plastered.

Immediately west of the dairy, and also on line with the south elevation of the main house is the archeological site of what is believed to be the old kitchen. Traces of other outbuildings are believed to be located west of the old kitchen site, forming a "street".

In the field northwest of the dairy is a rectangular, one-story plank corn crib with a gable roof. This structure is derelict, and it is not known if it is in its original location.

Directly north of the orangery addition is the site of what is believed to be the ice house. This site is marked by a depression in the ground and some large boxwood bushes.

North of the 1952 kitchen wing is a rectangular, 16'-3 1/2" x 18'-3", frame, one-story shed with a gable roof. The ridge is on the north-south axis. The east and west elevations both have two bays each. The north bay is a window and the south bay a door. The interior is one room with exposed studs. The date of the shed is uncertain. The window sash appear to be the same as those removed from the second floor of the main house in 1952.

The six non-contributing buildings are twentieth century and include three farm buildings, a garage and two temporary dwellings.

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Grove Mount is one of a group of four eighteenth century plantation houses in near proximity in Richmond County that are connected by close family ties and some architectural and landscape similarities. This group also includes Sabine Hall, built about 1735 by Landon Carter, Priscilla Carter Mitchell's uncle; Mount Airy, built about 1748-58 by John Tayloe II adjacent to Sabine Hall; and Menokin, built about 1770 for John Tayloe's daughter Rebecca Tayloe and her husband Francis Lightfoot Lee, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. All of these houses occupy a high ridge of land overlooking the Rappahannock River valley. All but Menokin look out across a broad sweep of lowland fields to the river. Menokin's view is across Cat Point Creek, a tributary of the Rappahannock River. Grove Mount, Menokin and Mount Airy all shared Cat Point Creek as a commercial landing for water-borne trade.

All four plantations share a common Georgian axial landscape design: all four dwelling houses are approached from the road on the non-river side of the house and all four have symmetrical formal grassed terraces on the river side of the house overlooking the view. All four houses have hipped roofs. While Sabine Hall, a brick house, and Mount Airy, a stone house, share many high-style Georgian features such as rusticated central pavilions in formal seven-bay elevations, Mount Airy and Menokin share a common building material, sandstone, and many bold Georgian exterior details, such as stone quoins, water tables and belt courses. Menokin and Grove Mount share some remarkably similar interior details such as the design of the staircase newels, balusters, and handrail, and mantle decoration. Of the four houses, only Grove Mount is of simple braced-frame construction.

All four houses were occupied by families of the same economic and social background. Sabine Hall and Mount Airy, however, were built in the mid-eighteenth century by exceptionally successful planters of Virginia's "golden age" and demonstrate the Georgian plantation in Virginia at its apogee. Menokin and Grove Mount were built in the late-eighteenth century by the next generation of the Carter and Tayloe families, and by daughters of the two families, neither of whom married men best known for their skill in business. Menokin and Grove Mount are on a more modest scale than Mount Airy and Sabine Hall. Of the four, Grove Mount is the least pretentious in size and architectural sophistication, but it is inextricably woven into an important and significant social, cultural, economic, geographic, and architectural context with the other three.

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Robert Mitchell was the fourth of his family to bear this name. The first Robert Mitchell to move to Richmond County did not own Grove Mount. It was purchased by his son, the second Robert Mitchell, in 1747; he bought 695 acres from John and Mary Belfield. The next year, 1748, the second Robert Mitchell willed Grove Mount to his son the third Robert Mitchell. A decade later, in 1758, the third Robert Mitchell willed Grove Mount to the fourth Robert Mitchell, the builder of the present house. This Robert Mitchell married Priscilla Carter in March 1782.

Priscilla Carter, daughter of Robert "Councillor" Carter, was raised at Nomini Hall in Westmoreland County. Her tutor, Philip Vickers Fithian, described her in his famous diaries.

Jan, 4, 1774. Miss Priscilla, the eldest daughter, about 16, is steady, studious, docile, quick of apprehension, and makes good progress in what she undertakes; if I could with propriety continue in the family, I should require no stronger inducement than the satisfaction I should receive by seeing this young lady become perfectly acquainted with anything I propose so soon as I communicate it to her, but the situation of my affairs makes it out of my power to stay longer than a year; she is small of her age, has a mild winning presence, a sweet obliging temper, never swears, which is here a distinguished virtue, dances finely, plays well on key'd instruments, and is upon the whole in the first class of the female sex.

Robert Mitchell served as a clerk and steward for Robert "Councillor" Carter some time prior to 1775. On August 12, 1778, Carter refers to Mitchell in a letter as "my late clerk," and goes on to say. "P.C. requested and desired to be permitted to marry R. Mitchell." There is some reason to believe that after their marriage, Robert Mitchell could not or did not provide Priscilla with an environment of a scale equal to his father-in-law. In a letter to Priscilla from her father in December 1786, "Councillor Carter comments, "Your late application to me to furnish a nurse for the infant now in your womb, convinces me that Mr. Mitchel [sic] does not intend to increase your family servants if your child should be born alive. . . . I have instructed yr mother to have the boy Negro Horace fully clothed and sent to your house: he to attend and wait on the expected infant. The Negro boy not a gift but a loan."

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There is a tradition that the couple first lived at a location now known as the "burnt house" site on lower ground near Cat Point Creek and that they moved up to the ridge after that house burned. Since the Mitchells were married in 1782, this would suggest that the construction of the present house at Grove Mount occurred about 1785.

Robert Mitchell died in 1808. His total landholdings amounted to 2,970 acres when taxed the following year. A probate inventory compiled in 1808 for Robert Mitchell lists 76 slaves and details the contents of every room in his dwelling house. Because the rooms listed in the inventory of 1808 match the present house at Grove Mount exactly, it is assumed that Robert Mitchell occupied the house at that time. The "Inventory and Appraisal of the Personal Estate of Robert Mitchell, decd.," carried out in December 1808, lists the name and value of items in the following rooms and spaces: "Dining Room, West Closet, East Closet, Chamber, Passage, Parlour, North Cupboard, South Cupboard, Blue Room, Passage, East Room S, West Room, N. West Room, Store Room and Garrot [sic], Kitchen and Dairy, North Cellar, South Cellar, Outward Cellar, Lumber House."

The following list of the dining room inventory gives an example of the nature and extent of the furnishings at Grove Mount in 1808:

- 1 Desk and Book Case
- Sundry Books
- 1 pr Buckles set with stone
- 1 pr small set with Do
- 1 Shaving Box
- 1 String of Button Moulds
- 3 prs. of Steel Buckles
- 1 s box of 1 pr money scales with case weights
- 1 Cherry Side Board
- 2 Mahogany Knife Cases with old Knives
- 2 China Bowls
- 2 Japaned Waiters
- 1 Water Pitcher
- 2 Water Jugs
- 1 Small Water Jug
- 5 Quart Tumblers
- 12 1/2 pint Do
- 10 Wine Glasses
- 1 Glass Can

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1 China Sugar Dish  
1 Tin Canaster  
5 Small Japaned Canasters  
1 Walnut Case and Bottles  
1 Nutmeg Grater  
2 Mahogany Tables  
1 Small Walnut Table  
14 Walnut Leather Bottomed Chairs  
6 Poplar . . . . . Do  
1 pr Andirons  
1 pr Tongs and Shovel

Historic American Buildings Survey standard measured drawings of the plan of the basement, first floor, second floor, and attic of Grove Mount were prepared in 1988 prior to the 1989 modifications and additions.

Grove Mount is a well documented late-eighteenth century Virginia dwelling house and dairy in a still unspoiled rural setting. Additions to the dwelling house in 1952 and 1989 are respectful of and subordinate to the early landscape and architecture. The connections that link Grove Mount with nearby Sabine Hall, Mount Airy, and Menokin make it a significant resource for the study and appreciation of rural society and culture of slave owning planters in the Northern Neck between 1780 and 1810.

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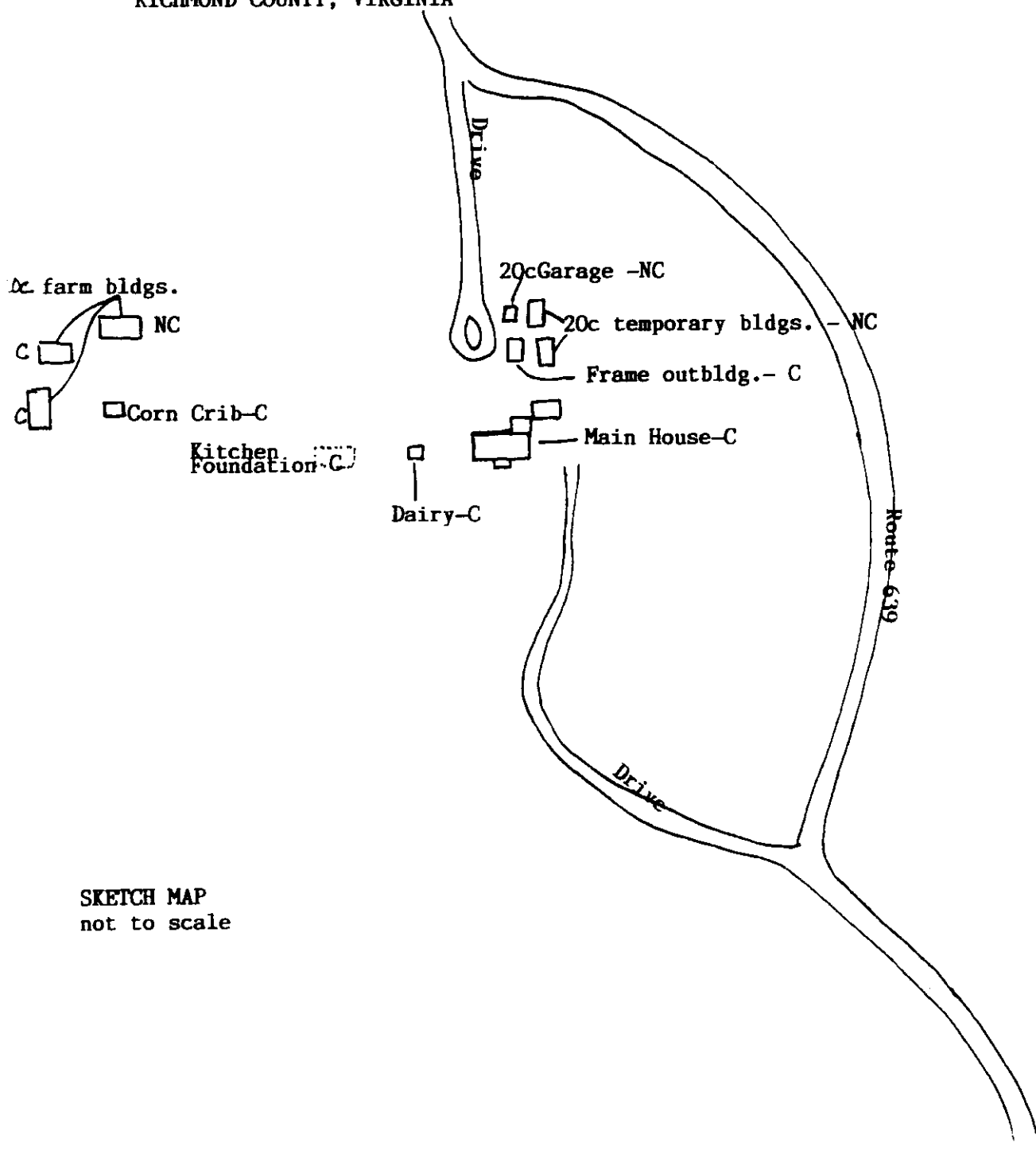
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GROVE MOUNT  
RICHMOND COUNTY, VIRGINIA



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King, M. Kirwan, II. "Grove Mount: Notes on its Architecture and History." Senior Thesis, Department of Anthropology, College of William and Mary, 1982; abstracted in Northern Neck Historical Magazine Vol. XXXIII, No. 1 (December 1983): 3754-3786.

Ryland, Elizabeth L., ed. Richmond County, Virginia. Richmond: Whittet and Shepperson, 1976.

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GROVE MOUNT  
RICHMOND CO., VA

A 18/338820/4209170

B 18/339476/4207700

C 18/339370/4207660

D 18/339110/4208180

E 18/338510/4208720

620 000 FEET  
(SOUTH)

38°00'  
76°52'30"

2 470 000 FEET (SOUTH)

(MOUNT LANDING)  
5659 IV NW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

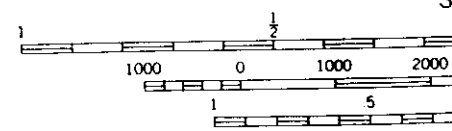
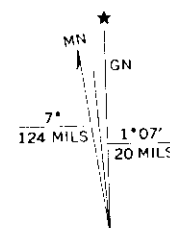
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1967. Field checked 1968

Supersedes Army Map Service map dated 1943

Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 558 (1970)  
and 605 SC (1971). This information is not intended for navigational purposes

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum

10,000-foot grids based on Virginia coordinate system.



CONTOUR  
DOTTED LINES R  
DATUM  
SOUNDINGS IN FEE  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENT  
THE MEAN RANGE